In the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-105. (Canceled)

106. (New) A method in a computing system for browsing a database table, comprising:

displaying contents of a database table comprising a plurality of fields arranged into rows and columns, a selected one of the fields containing a reference to an attached file;

receiving user input selecting the selected field; and

in response to receiving the user input, using the reference contained by the selected field to open the attached file.

107. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein the database table whose contents are displayed is a relational database table.

108. (New) The method of claim 106, further comprising constructing an index on the contents of a selected one of the columns of the database table whose contents are displayed.

109. (New) The method of claim 106, further comprising joining the database table whose contents are displayed with a second database table.

110. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein the database table whose contents are displayed corresponds to a business object.

111. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein the database table whose contents are displayed corresponds to a database object, and the selected field is an attribute of the database object.

112. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein the attached file is stored separately from the database table whose contents are displayed.

113. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein the database table whose contents are displayed is stored in a database, and wherein the attached file is stored in a filesystem and not in the database.

114. (New) The method of claim 106, further comprising, before opening the attached file, decompressing the attached file.

115. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein a field in a second database table contains a reference to the same attached file as the selected field.

116. (New) The method of claim 106, further comprising:

receiving user input specifying deleting the row of the database table containing the selected field;

in response to receiving the user input specifying deleting the row of the database table containing the selected field, deleting the row of the database table containing the selected field; and

in response to deleting the row of the database table containing the selected field:

decrementing a reference count associated with the attached file, and

if the value of the decremented reference count is zero, deleting the attached file.

117.   (New) The method of claim 106 further comprising modifying the opened attached file in accordance with user input.

118.   (New) A computing system for browsing a database table, comprising:

a display device that displays contents of a database table comprising a plurality of fields arranged into rows and columns, a selected one of the fields containing a reference to an attached file;

an input device via which the computing system receives user input selecting the selected field; and

an attachment opening subsystem that, in response to receiving the user input, uses the reference contained by the selected field to open the attached file.

119.   (New) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing system to browse a database table by:

displaying contents of a database table comprising a plurality of fields arranged into rows and columns, a selected one of the fields containing a reference to an attached object;

receiving user input selecting the selected field; and

in response to receiving the user input, using the reference contained by the selected field to activate the attached object.

120.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein the database table whose contents are displayed is a relational database table.

121.   (New) A computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium further cause the computing system to construct an index on the contents of a selected one of the columns of the database table whose contents are displayed.

122.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium further cause the computing system to join the database table whose contents are displayed with a second database table.

123.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein the database table whose contents are displayed corresponds to a business object.

124.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein the database table whose contents are displayed corresponds to a database object, and the selected field is an attribute of the database object.

125.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein the attached object is stored separately from the database table whose contents are displayed.

126.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein the database table whose contents are displayed is stored in a database, and wherein the attached object is stored in a file system and not in the database.

127.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium further cause the computing system to decompress the attached object before activating the attached object.

128.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein a field in a second database table contains a reference to the same attached object as the selected field.

129.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium further cause the computing system to:

    receive user input specifying deleting the row of the database table containing the selected field;

delete the row of the database table containing the selected field in response to receiving the user input specifying deleting the row of the database table containing the selected field;

decrement a reference count associated with the attached object; and

delete the attached object if the value of the decremented reference count is zero.

130.   (New) One or more computer memories collectively containing a database table, the database table comprising a plurality of fields arranged into rows and columns, a distinguished one of the fields of the database table containing a reference to an attached document,

such that the contents of the database table may be used to display a visual representation of the database table that includes a visual representation of the distinguished field,

and such that, if user input is received selecting a visual representation of the distinguished field, the reference in the distinguished field may be used to open the attached document.